



File Code: 1570; 1950
Date: June 13, 2016

Dear Interested Party,

The preliminary Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) update on the Tahoe National Forest is available for public review and comment. Public scoping for this project was initiated in February 2016, when comments were solicited for a purpose and need statement and a proposed action. The proposed action has been refined based on scoping input. At this time, I am requesting written comments on a preliminary environmental assessment.

Two alternatives are considered in detail in the MVUM EA: Alternative 1- the Proposed Action, and Alternative 2 - No Action. To respond to the purpose and need statement, I am proposing to update designation of public motor vehicle routes consistent with Forest Service travel management regulations, Title 36 CFR 212, Subpart B, and the Forest Plan, as follows:

- Remove fixed seasonal closures (which currently do not allow wheeled motorized vehicles to travel from January 1 through March 31) for approximately 47.5 miles of paved National Forest Transportation System (NFTS) roads.
- Remove fixed wet weather seasonal closures from approximately 25 miles of NFTS roads and 45 miles of motorized trails in the Burlington area. The Forest Service would use soil moisture conditions, timing, and weather factors to determine when roads and motorized trails in the Burlington area would be closed.
- Close approximately 3.3 miles of NFTS road segments dead ending on private lands to public wheeled motor vehicle travel.
- Close approximately 4.6 miles of isolated, disconnected road segments on NFS lands that cannot currently be legally reached by public wheeled motor vehicle travel.

This project is subject to 36 CFR 218 *Project-Level Pre-Decisional Administrative Review Process (Parts A and B)*. Only those individuals and entities who have submitted timely, specific written comments regarding a proposed project or activity during designated public comment periods are eligible to file an objection (36 CFR 218.25). Each individual or entity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Comments received, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

The Forest Service will accept comments on this proposal and preliminary EA for 30 days following the publication of the *Legal Notice* in Grass Valley's *The Union* newspaper. The legal notice is the exclusive means for calculating the timeframe for the comment period.

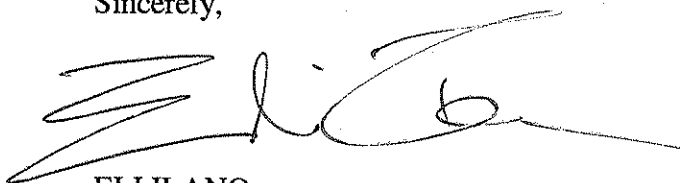


Commenters should not rely upon dates or information regarding timeframes provided by any other source. Please submit written comments to: Eli Ilano, Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote Street, Nevada City, California 95959; FAX: (530) 478-6109. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered written comments are: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc) to comments-pacificsouthwest-tahoe-american-river@fs.fed.us.

The MVUM EA is available online at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/tahoe/landmanagement/projects>. If you would prefer a hard copy or a CD of the EA, please contact Karen Walden, Environmental Coordinator at the American River Ranger District Office, 22830 Foresthill Road, Foresthill, California, 95631; telephone: (530) 367-2224. For any other questions regarding this action and environmental analysis, please contact Eli Ilano, Forest Supervisor, Tahoe National Forest. Copies of the decision will be sent to those who request copies during or before this comment period.

Thank you for your interest in the management of the Tahoe National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eli Ilano', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ELI ILANO
Forest Supervisor